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(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain the subject inhibitor comprising the extracted essence of CHOUTOUKOU (a hook attached to the main axis of Uncaria rhynchophylla Miq. or Uncaria sinensis of (Rubiaceae)) as an active ingredient having inhibitory effect on melanogenesis, excellent beautifying effect, preventing and treating effect on stain/freckles caused by suntan, etc., useful as a cosmetic having high safety.

SOLUTION: This melanogenesis inhibitor comprises the

extracted essence of CHOUTOUKOU [a hook attached to the main axis of Uncaria rhynchophylla Miq. or Uncaria sinensis of (Rubiaceae)] as an active ingredient. The extraction, for example, is preferably carried out by extracting 30-150g of CHOUTOUKOU prepared by grinding after drying with 1l of ethanol under heating at 70°C for 3 hours under reflux. The amount of CHOUTOUKOU is 0.005-0.1wt.% calculated as the dry weight of the extracted essence based on the whole amount of a skin preparation for external use.

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